

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Component for a motor-vehicle lighting or signaling device, comprising a transparent material within which light-diffusion foci, consisting of local discontinuities in said material, are situated only at predetermined locations in order to diffuse the light emitted by a light source associated with the lighting or indicator device.

2. Component according to Claim 1, wherein the local discontinuities of the transparent material are created by irreversible modifications of the structure of individual volumes of the transparent material.

3. Component according to Claim 2, wherein the irreversible modifications of the structure of the individual volumes of the transparent material are obtained by the focusing of electromagnetic radiation.

4. Component according to Claim 3, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is laser radiation.

5. Component according to Claim 1, comprising motor-vehicle headlamp glazing.

6. Component according to Claim 5, wherein the light-diffusion foci diffuse the light rays originating from the light source of the headlamp and incident on the component.

7. Component according to Claim 5, wherein the light-diffusion foci diffuse the light rays originating from an auxiliary light source and propagating in the component by successive total reflections.

8. Component according to Claim 1, comprising an insert disposed in a motor-vehicle headlamp, the diffusion foci diffusing the light rays originating from an auxiliary light source.

9. Component according to Claim 1, the converging lens of a headlamp the reflector of which has an elliptical section.

10. Component according to Claim 1, comprising an indicator strip light, the diffusion foci being distributed according to a predetermined pattern and diffusing the light rays emitted by at least one light source and propagating in the strip light by successive total reflections.

11. Component according to Claim 10, wherein the component is partially metallised.

12. Component according to Claim 1, wherein the diffusion foci have a size of between 1 and 35 microns.

13. Component according to any one of Claims 1 to 12, characterized in that the transparent material is plastic.

14. Component according to Claim 1, wherein the transparent material is glass.

15. Motor-vehicle headlamp incorporating a component as claimed in Claim 1 as glazing.

16. Motor-vehicle headlamp, incorporating a component as claimed in Claim 8 as an insert.

17. Motor-vehicle headlamp, incorporating a component as claimed in Claim 9 as a converging lens.

18. Indicator light for a motor vehicle, incorporating a component as claimed in Claim 1.

19. Component according Claim 1, comprising a repeater light, adapted for repeating a lighting or indicator function, and wherein it is associated with a specific light source, the turning-on and the turning-off of which are controlled simultaneously with the turning-on and turning-off of the light source of the function of which the component constitutes the repeater.

20. Component according to Claim 1, wherein the component itself constitutes a lighting device and is associated with a specific light source.